

Wycombe Wanderers 3, Marlow 0.

ALTHOUGH struggling in the Isthmian League this season compared with recent years, Wycombe Wanderers took over the leadership of the Premier Midweek Floodlight League on Tuesday night with a comfortable victory over local rivals Marlow in difficult conditions.

With leaders Wokingham Town falling 1-0 at Banbury United, Wycombe take over at the top on goal average with nine points from five games.

Frost blanketed the ground as the game progressed, and both sides found it increasingly hard to keep control of the ball. Successful attacking moves were few and far between but Wycombe were in total command all night.

Marlow, whose manager Mike Hall quit the Club for Maidenhead on Monday, fielded their full strength side with no absentees. Former Blues Vince Faulkner and Dave Thomas returned to their old hunting ground and were constantly working to subdue the home attack.

REDUNDANT

One man virtually redundant was the unfortunate Peter Spittle, who has yet to have a chance to demonstrate his talents. Peter's main worry on Tuesday was keeping warm.

His counterpart, Ron Seary, was always busy and had little chance with the goals, the first of which arrived after eight minutes.

It was a superb move that brought the breakthrough, the ball being switched from one side of the pitch to the other. Derek Gamblin sent a cross to Brian Langfield, who nodded on for Birdseye at the far post. Birdseye, with no room to try a shot himself, took the ball to the by-line before crossing for Langfield to prod the ball past the stranded Seary.

Johnny Bebb had a great chance to equalise eight minutes later but he completely miscued Woolley's cross after the winger had outpaced Dave Bullock. It was the start of an unhappy night for Bebb, who could hardly put a foot right.

Dave Richardson headed off the line from Delaney two minutes later but with Faulkner the general Marlow began to come back into the game. Stone and Faulkner kept things tight at the back while Johnson worked hard in midfield.

But with the pitch growing harder, Wycombe began to fall away upfront. Their raids were spasmodic and the cohesion of the early stages began to disappear. Marlow too were finding it hard in attack and Woolley provided their only real threat.

DEFLECTED

John Reyner came on for the ineffective Bebb after 60 minutes but a minute later Wycombe went two up. From another corner the ball came across to Delaney whose side-foot shot struck Johnson before beating Seary.

With Wycombe taking hold of midfield they began to dominate and only a fine save by Seary thwarted Hutchinson's powerful left foot shot. One of the few Marlow raids came in the 77th minute when Faulkner glanced a header wide from Stonell's free kick.

Five minutes later Wanderer's scored their third goal which put the seal on the match. Again the goal came from a set piece with Delaney nodding on a corner to Holifield, who had time to control the ball and thump it into the roof of the net.

S.E.

WYCOMBE: P. Spittle, D. Gamblin, I. Rundle, J. Delaney, D. Bullock, K. Jameson, L. Pritchard, P. Birdseye, B. Langfield, M. Holifield, J. Hutchinson, Sub. A. Amos (not used).

MARLOW: R. Seary, D. Richardson, V. Faulkner, P. Stone, M. McKeown, P. Johnson, P. Stonell, D. Thomas, D. Woolley, M. Page, J. Bebb (sub J. Reyner 60 minutes).

Referee: M. Jesson.

Half time: 1-0. Goalscorers: Langfield (8), Delaney (61), Holifield (82).

Attendance: 401.

STRONG CHELSEA

FOOTBALL League, Division One club Chelsea will be bringing down at least three players with first team experience for their friendly against Wycombe Wanderers at Loakes Park on Monday.

Goalkeeper Steve Sherwood is named in the side along with long serving defender Marvin Hinton who will be one of the centre backs. The third first team man is Gerry Boyle, while Ian Britton came on as substitute in a recent game against Derby County.

Chelsea juniors have a match on the same night but there will still be several youngsters in the side, including 15-year-old winger Clive Walker. The full team is:

Steve Sherwood, Michael Sorensen, Keith Lawrence, Marvin Hinton, Neil Stewart, Ian Britton, Gerry Boyle, Gary Stanley, Tom Ord, Alan Taylor, Clive Walker, sub to be named.